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Application No. 10/775,542

Filed: February 10, 2004

TC Art Unit: 3742

Confirmation No.: 6694

THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, line 17, to page 7, line 14, as follows:

The one or more eductors 14 are preferably as shown in U.S. patent 5,795,146 which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention and the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. An eductor is a device that produces a high volume flow of a mixture of a gas entrained in an injected high pressure gas. The eductors provide high volume flow necessary for improved temperature uniformity and control and can provide a thermal uniformity of plus or minus 5°C during the process cycle. In one embodiment, the furnace 10 is a batch furnace shown in cross-section in Fig. 2, for containing a quantity of materials to be processed. The furnace comprises a housing 30 enclosing insulative material 32 which surrounds a furnace chamber 24. A furnace hearth 36 supports an assembly 38 which holds a quantity of materials to be processed. The hearth is mounted on a moveable assembly 40 which can be moved upward into the furnace chamber and lowered downward to a position in which the hearth and the product contained thereon is outside of the furnace chamber for loading and unloading of the materials. An elevator mechanism (not shown) is employed to move the hearth between upper and lower positions. The elevator mechanism may include one or more lead screws or other mechanisms known in the art. A plurality of electrically energized radiant heaters 42 are disposed in the furnace chamber along the two sides thereof, each heater being suspended from an opening in an upper wall of the furnace. Each heater has electrical terminals

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GARNERIN & LEBOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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44 above the upper wall of the furnace chamber, these terminals being connectable to an electrical power source (not shown) for energizing the heaters. A microwave input port 46 is provided in the furnace chamber and is coupled to a microwave source to introduce microwave energy into the chamber for heating of the product.

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNERBIN & LEBOVICI LLP
TEL. (617) 542-2290
FAX. (617) 451-0313